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8 March 1982

HIGH COURT

BY ROBERT SANGEORGE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE SUPREME COURT TODAY DECIDED TO AVOID A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH A GROUP OF FLYING SAUCER BUFFS THAT DEMANDED ACCESS TO 135 UFO-RELATED DOCUMENTS HELD BY THE SUPER-SECRET NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

THE JUSTICES TURNED ASIDE WITHOUT COMMENT AN APPEAL BY A NEW YORK CITY-BASED GROUP CALLED CITIZENS AGAINST UFO SECRECY, WHICH WANTED THE JUSTICES TO ORDER NSA TO RELEASE THE MATERIAL UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

IN ANOTHER CASE, THE JUSTICES MADE CLEAR THEY INTEND TO STAY OUT OF AN INSURANCE "HORMETS' NEST" STIRRED UP BY THE AVALANCHE OF LAWSUITS OVER ASBESTOS-RELATED DEATHS AND DISEASES.

THE COURT REJECTED REQUESTS, INVOLVING THREE CASES, TO ESTABLISH A NATIONWIDE POLICY FOR DETERMINING WHICH INSURANCE COMPANIES MUST PAY THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS BEING SOUGHT BY PEOPLE WHO CONTRACTED DISEASES OR WHOSE RELATIVES DIED AFTER WORKING WITH ASBESTOS PRODUCTS.

IN OTHER ACTIONS BEFORE BEGINNING A TWO-WEEK RECESS, THE HIGH COURT:

-- DROPPED A PAIR OF CASES ABOUT REGULATION OF "HEAD SHOPS," AN ACTION INDICATING ITS RULING LAST WEEK ALLOWING CITIES AND STATES TO FORBID SALE OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA TO MINORS MAY ALSO COVER SALES OF DRUG ACCESSORIES TO ADULTS.

-- DISMISSED A RULING THAT HAD ORDERED THE CIA TO TURN OVER CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ON "KOREAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS" TO REV. SUN MYUNG MOON'S UNIFICATION CHURCH.

-- UNANIMOUSLY RULED THE UNITED MINE WORKERS CAN DENY INCREASES IN UNION HEALTH CARE BENEFITS TO WIDOWS OF MINERS WHO HUSBANDS DIED BEFORE 1974. THE 9-0 DECISION SAID FEDERAL COURTS HAD NO AUTHORITY TO MODIFY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS DECIDED AT THE BARGAINING TABLE.

-- REFUSED TO GET INVOLVED IN A DISPUTE OVER AIRPORT NOISE, REJECTING AN APPEAL BY CALIFORNIA OFFICIALS WHO HAD CHALLENGED A RULING THAT THEY CANNOT ENFORCE AN 11 P.M. TO 7 A.M. "CURFEW" AT SAN DIEGO'S CROWDED LINDBERGH FIELD.

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